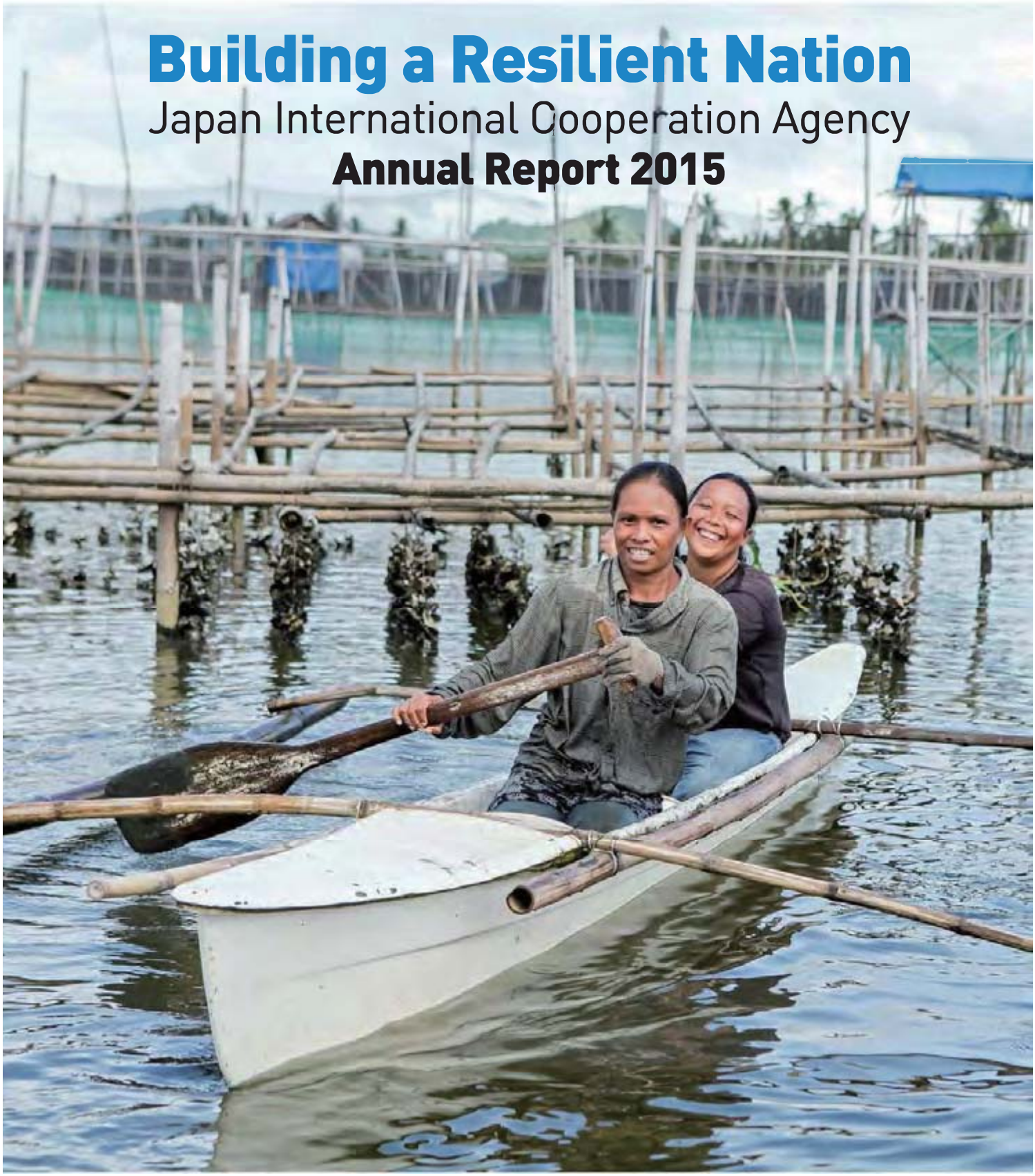
Building a Resilient Nation

Japan International Cooperation Agency

Annual Report 2015



JICA

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ABOUT THE COVER The two women in the cover are oyster farmers in Barangay Santa Cruz, the location of one of JICA's quick impact projects in Leyte after Typhoon Yolanda. They are back harvesting oysters in the same waters that once submerged their town and washed away many lives. People like them reflect the best of the Filipino spirit, and how JICA's assistance is making real impact in building resilience to sustain development.

Building Resilience

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Philippine Office is pleased to share with you the various facets of our work in different places in the country towards building resiliency and promoting inclusive growth.

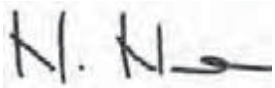
JICA has been a great supporter to the efforts to recover and rebuild Typhoon Yolanda-stricken areas. We have also committed to continue our support to lasting peace and development in Mindanao. As the Philippine economy grows, we've also steadily worked with the government in finalizing the Transport Infrastructure Roadmap to ensure that development reaches every one and spreads to other growth centers.

These programs would not have been possible without the support of our stakeholders from the Philippine government, academe, Japanese experts and private sector, as well as local communities. Together, we worked in solidarity to sustain progress by helping the Philippines build resilience in many levels.

The strength of Japan in building its resiliency in overcoming natural disasters repeatedly is an area we continue to share through our development cooperation with countries such as the Philippines. We recognize that circumstances like natural disasters, or even conflict, could greatly affect the vulnerabilities of a nation. We therefore welcome the assistance of the Filipinos for the new ideas and development support from JICA in addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience.

As the rest of the world moves forward with new development agenda under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), let us remember our past lessons and continue working together as development partners. Let us build on the spirit of resilience and hope reflected in the people of Typhoon Yolanda communities, Mindanao's conflict-affected areas, and ordinary Filipinos determined to improve their lives and achieve a better tomorrow.

To our partners and friends in the Philippines, thank you for your support to JICA's programs and activities. May the stories of people in this Annual Report inspire us all to continue working together to build resilient, inclusive societies worthy for the future generation.



Noriaki Niwa
Chief Representative
JICA Philippines

Achieving Sustainable Economic Growth

A view of the city skyline in Metro Manila

Investing in the future: A transport infrastructure roadmap shows the way

The traffic gridlock that greeted commuters on September 8, 2015 on their way home after heavy rains pummeled Metro Manila showed how traffic, like an Armageddon, has extremely affected the quality of life of ordinary Filipinos.

During peak hours, Metro Manila's busiest highway called EDSA would turn into a parking lot as piles of cars and buses ply along its thoroughfares. An hour or more is added to a regular commute in Metro Manila, taking its toll on the quality of life and productivity in the city.

In an urban area like Metro Manila, the government recognizes that much more can be done to rapidly and effectively manage the traffic congestion.

Transport Infrastructure Roadmap

On June 2014, the Philippine government approved the Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure Development for Metro Manila and its Surrounding Areas (Region III and Region IV-A), a technical assistance provided by JICA.

"Traffic is a clear and immediate challenge that can affect a country's competitiveness. It is therefore crucial to explore ways through infrastructure development to help spread economic opportunities outside Metro Manila and attract more investments," said JICA Chief Representative in the Philippines Noriaki Niwa.

The roadmap study, conducted March 2013 to March 2014, aims to redefine the spatial structure of Metro Manila to develop suburban areas and recover green spaces; advance a regional development strategy by developing north-south transport backbone; and shift from mono-centric to poly-centric development towards other growth centers outside Metro Manila. The proposed transport roadmap, in summary, aims to address the '5 Nos for Mega Manila,' to promote dynamic investment growth and encourage economic activities. These are: no traffic congestion, no households living in high hazard risk areas, no barrier for seamless mobility, no excessive transport cost burden for low-income groups, and no air pollution.

"The Roadmap addresses current and future demand for moving people

The transport infrastructure roadmap aims to, among others, improve mobility of people and goods

and goods efficiently, towards making the Greater Capital Region more productive and livable. Its approval by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board and the establishment of a high level coordination committee provide continuity beyond a term of each administration. The Roadmap ensures coherence in terms of investments by both the public and private sectors," said NEDA Deputy Director General Rolando Tungpalan.

At the Philippine Economic Briefing 2015, a yearly gathering of local and international economic stakeholders, JICA's presentation of the transport roadmap became a key topic, a sign that transport development is a challenge taken seriously by economic managers.

Japan-Philippines Strategic Partnership

When President Benigno Aquino III visited Japan on June 2015, he and Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe identified collaboration between two countries including quality infrastructure development as among key strategic partnership areas.

The meeting of the two leaders once again at the Asia Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) Summit in Manila on November 2015 also became symbolically significant in advancing the cooperation of the two countries to boost economic growth in the region through infrastructure development.

Already, the Philippines rolled out some key infrastructure projects under the Roadmap. This goes to show that the government, with help from development partners like Japan, is exerting its will power to invest in a sustainable future for the Filipinos. ●

Easing the traffic bottleneck

Nearly 3 billion pesos is being allocated through JICA Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the construction of several interchanges to increase transport capacity of Metro Manila.

The Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project (Phase 6), in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) includes EDSA-North Avenue-West Avenue-Mindanao Avenue interchange; Circumferential Road 5 (C5)-Green Meadows-Calle Industria-Eastwood interchange; and EDSA-Roosevelt Avenue-Congressional Avenue interchange.

The road interchange upgrade is a welcome move for frequent drivers and commuters along this northern part of EDSA who had to endure snail-paced mobility in this area.

Once finished, the project aims to reduce travel times and increase road capacity. ●

Components of the Transport Infrastructure Roadmap

- At-grade roads (Urban roads)
  (Missing links: C3, C5, bridges; 137 km new roads; flyovers, sidewalks/pedestrian facilities; secondary roads)
- Expressways
  (426 km Intercity expressway; 78 km urbane expressway)
- Urban/Suburban rails
  (246 km main line; 72 km secondary line; integrated lines/improved access)
- Bus/Jeepneys modernization
- Traffic management

24 pesos

Average transport fare by commuters from 42 pesos per day when connectivity is improved

31 minutes

Reduced average travel time from 81 minutes if interventions from the Transport Roadmap are implemented

P6 billion pesos

Increase in daily road transport costs by 2030 (from the present level of P2.4B) if without Transport Roadmap interventions

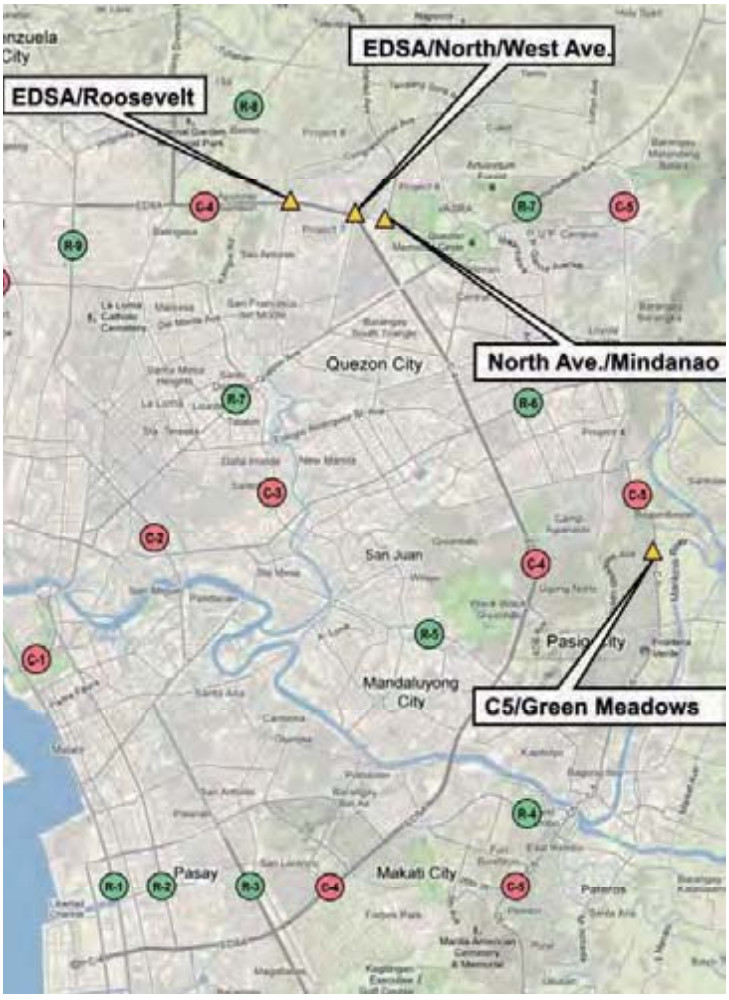


Chart depicting locations of Metro Manila Interchange Project

Improving road infrastructure, creating economic opportunities

A major measure upgrading the stretch of an arterial road in Barangay Laguitas, Malaybalay, Bukidnon did not only reduce the 60 minutes travel time of commuters to less than 20 minutes, the improved road also created jobs in this town composed of indigenous communities.

"Indigenous people who are also skilled workers were able to augment their family income when they were given construction jobs in the road project," said Ryanlou Aston, indigenous people (IP) representative of the Bukidnon-Higaonan tribe.

The road is part of an ongoing Road Upgrading and Preservation Project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and JICA.

The project features asset preservation, preventive maintenance, upgrading and improvement of roads as well as institutional capacity building including international studies and trainings of DPWH engineers.

The asset preservation component preserves and maintains some 600 kilometer roads in Northern Luzon, Bicol and Mindanao that form part of the north-south backbone and those along the Maharlika Highway (Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway) constructed through JICA's assistance. The roads cater to 4,000 vehicles per day annually, and the component allows five years of road maintenance, helping the government's cost burden since contractors are required to ensure high quality of the road networks.

The preventive maintenance component helps prolong the life span of some 500 kilometers of road networks in the country; while the road upgrading component ensures connectivity of road networks and arterial roads and bridges including Bongabon-Baler, Lipa-Alaminos, Mindoro West Coast Road, and Catanduanes Circumferential Road.

J-RUPP project combines both road improvement and capacity building for DPWH

"The project proved to be beneficial in terms of improving economic routes, boosting local tourism, shortening travel time, and earning the trust of the citizens in the government," said Virgilio Castillo, project director for DPWH Unified Project Management Office - Roads and Management Cluster 1 (Bilateral).

"A well-maintained road reduces vehicle operating costs and for ordinary road users, this is a welcome respite from the high cost of their daily lives," Castillo added. "The Philippine road network, the single largest asset owned by the government, could now ensure enhanced mobility and economic competitiveness with help from the project."

Road transport makes up 90% of passenger transport and 50% of freight transport in the Philippines. The Medium Term Infrastructure Program of DPWH (2005-2010) and the Public Investment Plan (2011-2016) prioritize effective use of existing road assets to boost economic benefits, particularly increased private investments.

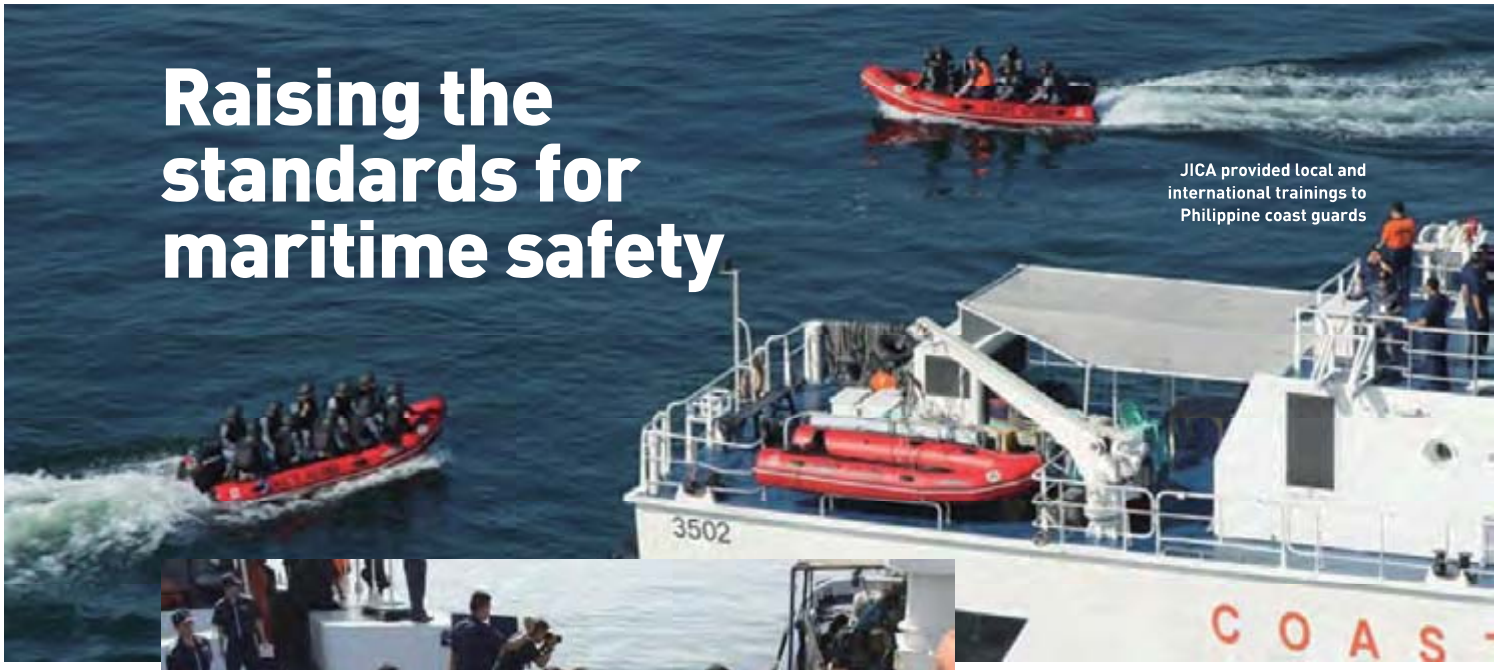
JICA also aided the agency's truck overloading control measures and provided equipment to measure road life span and smoothness based on international standards.

"During Typhoon Yolanda, the equipment also helped us in our clearing operations. The equipment from JICA had been very useful as some of our heavy equipment were already very old," said Ma. Margarita C. Junia, DPWH District Engineer in Southern Leyte.

The project has also introduced an IT system for DPWH engineers to share road data for their designs combined with capacity building activities, thus boosting the DPWH District road management capacity.

In Bukidnon, where commuters used to endure traffic and road accidents, life is more sanguine as they are now assured of a safer, quality road to travel by. ●

Raising the standards for maritime safety



JICA provided local and international trainings to Philippine coast guards

When typhoon Yolanda struck the Philippines in 2013, a power barge ran aground at the shores of Estancia in Iloilo, a province in Western Visayas. Portions of the oil leaked and spilled the coasts.

In this case of natural disaster, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) became the country's first responders to the maritime emergency.

The government recognizes the crucial role of the PCG in securing maritime safety and security and has partnered with JICA to enhance safety in the Philippines' strategic and port waters.

At the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in Tokyo in 2013, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Benigno Aquino III signed exchange of notes to launch the Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project (MSCIP). The signing of the 18.732 billion yen loan assistance between JICA and Department of Finance followed after.

Ten 40-meter Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRVs) will be provided to PCG under the agreement to build up the country's fleet operations.

"The JICA assistance will help us in performing our mandates on maritime safety, environment protection, search and rescue, law enforcement, and other maritime operations. With the additional floating platforms, the PCG can have better and efficient asset deployment, quicker response time to maritime incidents, and ability to patrol larger maritime jurisdiction such as economic zones and continental shelf particularly the newly acquired Benham rise," said Commodore Lyndon Latorre, MSCIP project director.

JICA also provided PCG with Japanese expert and capacity building assistance on maritime law enforcement and enhanced the coast guards' knowledge and skills in performing the maritime functions (including actual sea-borne exercises) locally and internationally with the Japan Coast Guard through a three-year Technical Cooperation Project (TCP). This TCP has trained about 600 PCG personnel which will contribute to the effective operation of the upcoming 10 MRRVs.

In 2014, JICA extended a 1.152 billion yen grant aid to PCG for the installation of a satellite-based communication system, and a Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) to manage vessel movement and traffic in busy ports like Cebu.

Local ports have been prone to maritime accidents and crimes due to passenger and freight transport volumes.

With JICA's support underway, there is no doubt that the PCG, the country's maritime force, are taking navigational safety at a new level. ●

Overcoming Vulnerability and Alleviating Poverty

Students perform experiments to understand the weather

Raising disaster awareness in the young generation

Students, age 10 to 11 years old, in Castilla East Elementary School in Sorsogon, Bicol Province huddle together to learn about cloud formation using plastic bottles.

Their science teacher Marilyn Jesalva knows that educating school children on the weather will encourage disaster preparedness and awareness in the communities. "Making students aware on the scientific basis of rains, for example, will help them understand what is happening and act appropriately. Ultimately, their knowledge can save their lives in terms of preparing for disasters and evacuation," Jesalva said.

Their school is among the pilot schools where weather observation and awareness activities are being held under the JICA Philippines-PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) on Weather project (J-POW). Said initiative aims to enhance the capacity on weather observation, forecasting and warning in the Philippines.

The Philippines' geographic location atop the Pacific Ring of Fire makes it among the disaster-prone countries in the region. Southern Luzon, where disaster awareness activities are being held, bears the brunt of several typhoons that frequent the country.

Recognizing that children are

Dr. Cayanan of PAGASA at the disaster awareness seminar in Sorsogon


Japanese experts work with communities and PAGASA to raise disaster awareness

most vulnerable to disasters, J-POW piloted awareness seminars to three other schools namely Urdaneta Elementary School, Bobon Elementary School, and Gubat North Central School. The project published easy to understand information materials explaining typhoons, storm signal categories, and storm surge among others.

"We are working with PAGASA to help raise public awareness on what the storm warnings mean. Also, we are working on a mobile application that will contain official weather information from PAGASA as well," said Japanese expert and project chief advisor Nobuo Sato. "The people will be encouraged to act if they know what the storm warnings mean."

To date, the project trained 130 technical personnel of PAGASA. "Through J-POW, our staff became more skilled in calibrating and maintaining instruments. They are also more confident on issuing hourly forecasts of typhoon's position, wind, and associated rainfall. With this, the local governments are able to decide better on appropriate measures they can take when typhoons happen," said Dr. Esperanza Cayanan, Chief of Weather Division, PAGASA.

As the Philippines took disaster lessons the hard way from Typhoon Yolanda, the J-POW initiative, ongoing until 2017, has been steadily helping build Filipino resilience and disaster awareness among the youth and vulnerable communities. ●

JICA and DPWH have been working together for decades to address flooding problems in Pasig-Markina

Embracing a long-term solution to flooding

The torrential rains that hammered Metro Manila from Typhoon Ondoy in 2009 caused the city's surrounding rivers to overflow. While the waves of water overturned cars and affected homes and businesses, it also offered lessons on the need for long-term solution to mitigate flooding.

Once an economic and historical center, Pasig River was further degraded by massive population and industrialization. The river also overflows during heavy downpours.

"We are currently working on the revetment (structures built to address erosion) and dredging so we can further address flooding risks from the river channels," said Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Engineer Resito David, project manager of the agency's flood control programs in Manila.

Initiatives to improve the river channel form part of a 1990 master plan for flood control and drainage improvement in Metro Manila, a technical assistance from JICA.

In 1999, DPWH and JICA continued working together to improve flood control measures specifically engineering design of Pasig River.

The recent project, Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project – Phase III, seeks to restore the ecological balance and reduce flooding risks in these major tributaries. It also aims to improve the aesthetics of the Pasig River, Marikina River and their tributary called the Napindan Channel.

"We are elevating the river walls for flood control, and are working with the local government and other government agencies on environment monitoring," added David.

Aside from structural measures, the project also included information campaigns and hazard mapping. A pageant for environment causes 'Miss Earth' featured clean-up activities in the area to help raise awareness on Pasig River rehabilitation efforts.

"It's important to mobilize public attention to mitigate future disasters like flooding. The project, together with our partners from local government, media, and international aid community, is also an investment in our future," David said. ●

DPWH engineers at work for the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project

Looking Back

1990 JICA and DPWH conducted the "Study on Flood Control and Drainage Improvement in Metro Manila," an updated master plan on flood control for the Pasig-Marikina River Channel

1999 DPWH and JICA began study and technical design of Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project or PMRCIP based on the 1990 master plan

2009 Phase II of the project began which includes construction of several sections of project along Delpan bridge to Napindan Channel

2013 Phase II of the project concluded. Phase III of the project began to include elevating up to 5.4 meters the portions of the river

2017 Year that the Phase III of the project is expected to complete

Journey to build back better after Typhoon Yolanda

Locals rebuilding their communities after Typhoon Yolanda

The places submerged under water from Typhoon Haiyan (also known as Typhoon Yolanda) on November 8, 2013 are a work in progress in restoring their normal lives, shaping their post-disaster narratives, and building back better.

With about 6, 000 casualties and 4 million displaced by the typhoon, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRMMC), Leyte and Samar coastal areas are getting help from JICA to address confounding challenges in rebuilding and recovery.

Under JICA's Urgent Development Study on the Project on Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda, Japanese experts continue to work with local governments on building back better.

Building resilience

In the town of Palo, Leyte, the Palo Municipal Building and Palo Metropolitan Cathedral, once ruined by the typhoon and now rebuilt, are tangible reminders of hope after the storm.

Japanese experts have been working with vulnerable communities like Palo to share knowledge on hazard mapping for recovery. "We are improving disaster awareness at the barangay levels, and are using the hazard maps to plot centers for pre-emptive evacuation to prepare for future disasters," said Palo zoning officer Eumelia Creer.

The scientifically-based hazard maps are developed by JICA for some 18 LGUs in the area to help in smooth evacuation.

"Hazard maps should also be continuously updated as climate changes. Back in Japan after the Tohoku disaster, we have updated our hazard maps a lot. Both Japan and the Philippines share similar hazards. But, Japan's experience shows that by investing in prevention measures than doing nothing, we will be able to build resiliency," said Japanese expert Nobuo Kuga, project leader of JICA's Urgent Development Study on the Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda.

Restoring Livelihood

After the typhoon, many resi-

Guiuan Marine Fisheries Center rebuilt with help from JICA

Children wave happily inside the reconstructed day care center in Samar

Restoring economic activities at the rehabilitated Guiuan Public Market

Woman at the JICA-assisted livelihood center in Leyte

dents faced realities of poverty as they rebuild their lives.

But, in Santa Cruz, Tanauan, Leyte, members of a women's association mend their lives by raising their income through the JICA-assisted livelihood center for milkfish and oyster products.

JICA and the Municipal Agriculture Office trained women on development and production of new milkfish and oyster products, and packaging.

Thirty-one fish pens and 25 oyster racks were also given by JICA to restore the aquaculture industry in the province as part of the 22 Quick Impact Projects (QIP) for Typhoon Yolanda recovery.

"Nung bumalik kami dito, akala ko wala na talagang pag-asa. Pero ngayon dahil may sarili na kaming kita, unti-unti na kami nakakabangon. *(When we returned after the typhoon, we were hopeless. But now, because we have income, we are slowly getting back on our feet),*" said Menchie Frumencia, head of the Santa Cruz Women's Association.

Rebuilding Lives

JICA also provided 4.6 billion yen grant aid support to rebuild schools, medical facilities, and government offices, and provided equipment to the National Maritime Polytechnic, meteorological radar stations, and electric cooperatives, to name a few.

In Guiuan, Samar, fishermen who were among the province's poorest residents, and typhoon victims replaced their sense of loss with promise.

"JICA gave us equipment to improve local fish harvest and identify new fish sanctuaries," said Merla Galan of the Guiuan Marine Fisheries Center. "Now, the equipment helps fishermen rebuild their lives and recover livelihood through new marine hatcheries."

'Roofless, homeless, but not hopeless'

In Tacloban, a memorial marker remembers countless names that perished from Typhoon Yolanda beside the desolate coliseum. Makeshift tombstones dot some street corners. Some buildings were repainted and reconstructed. A wharf restaurant welcomes local and foreign aid volunteers.

A new year begins. ●


Japan's training programs provide young Filipinos exposure to Japanese life and culture

Japan's experience stirs hope for a young Filipino scholar in Typhoon Yolanda area

"To some generations, much is given. Of other generations, much is expected." This generation as Roosevelt said, rendezvous with destiny.

A day after Typhoon Yolanda swept away houses and devastated Tacloban City, the parents of Niño Archie Labordo thought he was among the casualties. But, it seems destiny has turned its favor to Labordo, who along with other survivors, volunteered and assisted in the people's evacuation in Sto. Nino Church in Tacloban City.

Labordo's apartment was destroyed by the typhoon, but not his compassion to help the victims.

"I volunteered to help even if I had nothing left as all my things were swept away by the flood," said Labordo, 32, a specialist at the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Office VIII in Palo, Leyte.

In 2015, Labordo's fate took a new turn as he was selected to join a new batch of young professionals for a JICA training in Japan.

The training called Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Young Leaders), highlighted Japan's rural development and rebuilding experiences after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. They visited Japan Agriculture Cooperatives vegetable centers to observe livelihood restoration activities in Tohno City in Iwate Prefecture in Tohoku Region, affected by the quake.

They stayed with local farming families and visited Rikuzentakata, a coastal area where the local government works in elevating the city's ground level to mitigate future disasters using a conveyor to carry the soil from one area to another for the elevation project.

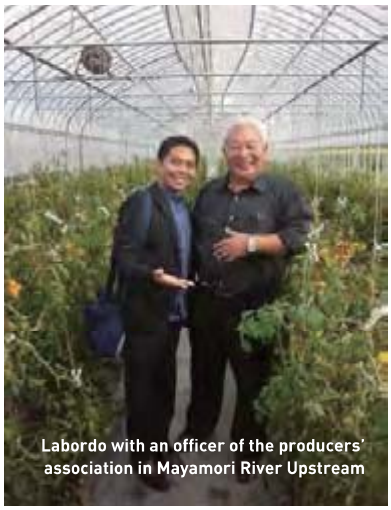
"The training program helped me understand rural areas and appreciate the system and discipline of Japan, particularly in disaster management. I'm trying to also transform my experience into an advocacy as we implement the recovery and rehabilitation plans for Typhoon Yolanda," he said.

"In Japan, everything about the 2011 natural disaster was documented. I hope that we can do the same with our Typhoon Yolanda experience," added Labordo.

He added, "The JICA training helped me understand our interconnectedness with our neighbors like Japan. I also learned that even if we're from different domains of experiences (Labordo was a nursing graduate), young people like myself could still contribute to development."

Upon his return, Labordo helps implement 'Sulhog' (a local term for ray of light), the reconstruction plan that combines all recovery efforts in Eastern Visayas.

For young professionals like Labordo, keeping track of lessons from disasters is one way to help build a resilient future for Filipinos.●


Labordo with an officer of the producers' association in Mayamori River Upstream

Waste management technology shared by Mansei Recycle Systems Co. Ltd.

A Japanese technology transforms waste to energy in Cebu

Jethro Tumulac, 29, has been earning his keep as a scavenger since he was a teenager. He earns a hundred pesos a day back in the days when he would pick trash in Cebu's lone sanitary landfill site in Barangay Inayawan.

He had lost his job when the conveyor of the Inayawan landfill broke down during an earthquake in Central Visayas two years ago. A father of three children, Tumulac could hardly make ends meet when work in the landfill became hard to come by.

The landfill closed down on January 2015 and workers like Tumulac completely lost their livelihood.

Now, Mr. Tumulac stopped scavenging, and is now employed for the pilot testing of a waste plastic processing equipment in Inayawan.

Mansei Recycle Systems Co. Ltd., a Japanese SME (small and medium enterprise), introduced said equipment in 2014 to help Cebu turn plastic wastes into something of value. Mansei is among the many Japanese SMEs under JICA's program on the Pilot Survey for Disseminating SME Technologies with developing countries.

The landfill, designed to only hold one million cubic meters of waste, has exceeded its capacity because of the volume of waste generated in Cebu due to rapid economic growth.

"With the equipment, soft plastic wastes are turned into fluff fuel that cement companies can use in their operations," explained Mr. Arlie Gesta, officer in charge of Cebu City's Environment and Natural Resources Office.

JICA along with the Cebu City government and Japan's Yokohama City have been pushing for the Mega Cebu 2050 development strategy of supporting Cebu's sustainable and resilient development which also includes conservation of the environment.

"We are already discussing with Mansei on continuing the project. At the local government, we are passing an ordinance to have a day dedicated to collecting plastic wastes alone from barangays," added Gesta.

As one of the highly urbanized cities in the country, Cebu City recognizes the importance of an effective solid waste management system in balancing its economic development with protecting the environment.●

Tumulac used to be a scavenger but now sorts wastes and operates the equipment at the facility


At the water source in the Municipality of Carmen in Cebu


Testing Cebu's water quality

A public-private partnership in water infra ripples positive effects in one of Philippines' largest provinces

The bulk water supply project of Cebu Manila Water Development, Inc. (CMWD) stood amid the mountainous municipality of Carmen in the Province of Cebu to provide water for over a million people and for an industrial zone. The project captures water from Carmen's Luyang River, an alternative water supply source augmenting Cebu's growing water demand and addressing salt-water intrusion of the Province's ground water sources.

As an outcome of its economic growth, the Province of Cebu currently needs to develop alternative water sources to provide its fast rising population which stands at 4.7 million as of 2010.

The Metro Cebu Water District (MCWD) currently accounts for 75% of Cebu's water supply, but the government knows there is more work needed to fill future water supply gap.

The Cebu Provincial Government came up with a water supply and sanitation master plan to distribute safe water in the province. To implement such plan, the Provincial Government partnered with the Manila Water Consortium, paving the way for a public-private partnership that assures 100, 000 to 200, 000 liters per day for Cebu's industrial zones and households.

The investment tie-up between the Cebu Provincial Government and Manila Water Consortium led to the creation of CMWD to augment MCWD's water service connections to fast-growing Cebu. The bulk water supply project in Carmen built in 2014 is part of this partnership.

"Through the project, CMWD has reached out and provided much needed water to Cebu's people. In case of disasters and emergencies, we've also created a business continuity team to act on emergency response," said Federico Noe Goco, operations manager of CMWD.

The bulk water supply project, which is assisted by the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) via JICA's two-step loan scheme called Environmental Development Project (EDP), aims to ensure sustainable water supply for an additional 1.5 million people by 2027.

"JICA's assistance made it easier for us in the private sector to have an active role in areas where development is a priority," added Goco.

DBP assistant vice president Rustico Noli Cruz said the project's success has already been cited by Karlsruhe Sustainable Finance Award, Germany as an outstanding example of sustainable project financing, proving how developing countries can work with private sector to improve water services.

As countries develop and grapple with rapid urbanization, and climate change, the Cebu water initiative only shows that balancing infrastructure with environmental conservation is not an elusive dream. ●

70 **Number of Sub-loan Accounts Financed under the Environmental Development Project of DBP** supported by JICA as of December 30, 2015

JICA two-step loan A financial loan by JICA through financial institutions of recipient countries to address policy priorities like agriculture or other industries

A mobile filtration tank provides water to far-flung areas in Cebu

Securing safe water in remote disaster-stricken areas

The mountainous terrain in Bonbon in Cebu leads to a barangay accustomed to collecting water from the river for their daily needs. Residents get water directly sourced from the Uragay and Sam-ang River and they have no fear of getting sick.

Thanks to a mobile siphon tank provided by Japanese small and medium enterprise (SME) Nihon Genryo through its cooperation with Metropolitan Cebu Water District (MCWD) and JICA, some 300 households in Barangay Bonbon now has access to clean and safe water.

The prolonged dry season also shortened water supply in the area, and with the mobile siphon tank that pumps as much as 480 cubic meters in a day, local residents get to have their fill.

Crisanto Nombreno, 60 years old, sources drinking water from the equipment stationed nearby his house. The regular water supply helps sustain his livelihood, a small eatery in the area.

"The service we provide for the operations of the facility is free. It has become already part of our corporate social responsibility," said Rico Bontilao, an engineer at the Metro Cebu Water District (MCWD). "In the future, we hope to spread the technology to other districts."

The technology was placed in Bonbon following its use in the municipality of Daanbantayan, Cebu.

When Typhoon Yolanda barreled Central Visayas, Daanbantayan's water system was severely damaged making it difficult for about 1,400 households to access safe drinking water.

With JICA's assistance under its Pilot Survey for Disseminating SME Technologies project, Nihon Genryo introduced the technology in Daanbantayan whose water supply was affected by the typhoon. Their electricity system was damaged making it difficult to pump ground water to the communities. The mobile siphon tank enabled the locals to access filtered water weeks after the typhoon.

The story of mountain barangays like Bonbon and disaster-stricken areas like Daanbantayan reveals lessons that in this age of unexpected droughts and other natural disasters, innovative water filtration system can help make a difference in the lives of many people. ●

A community health worker talks with a mother in Tublay, Benguet

How a local health system is saving the lives of mothers and their children

Life is meaningful for Rowena Gamboa, 21, a resident of Tublay, a low-income municipality in Benguet.

She is expecting her first child, and goes regularly to prenatal check-ups in Tublay's rural health unit (RHU). "I feel I'm lucky because the midwife guides me through my pregnancy and I get additional supportive care from the community health workers," Rowena said.

Rowena said she saw the plight of pregnant women in her province before with little access to prenatal care.

Today, pregnant women receive prenatal care from barangay health station and safe pregnancy education and nutrition from community health workers. Other pregnant women like Tenezee Buasen, 29 years old, likewise receive frequent prenatal care and constant follow-up for her pregnancy complications. "We survey and profile women in Tublay and encourage them to attend classes (on breastfeeding, pregnancy nutrition and importance of access to health center services)," said Ruth Angeli Bolide, a community health worker in Tublay.

Through the partnership of JICA and Department of Health (DOH), 'Cordillera-Wide Strengthening of the Local Health System for Effective and Efficient Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services,' the region improved access to prenatal care and birth delivery in health facility. The project also developed Indigenous People's (IP) friendly information and education materials to raise awareness on healthy pregnancy and safe delivery. ●

JICA-supported health facilities in CAR by the numbers

61
Number of barangay health stations assisted

14
Number of hospitals upgraded

19
Number of rural health units that improved

Pregnant mothers and families receive information from local health workers

The Philippines' Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets reducing infant mortality to 26.7 deaths for every 1,000 live births and maternal mortality to 52 deaths for every 100, 000 live births by 2015. With help from JICA-assisted project, the numbers in CAR show steady improvement: facility-based delivery grew to 90% in 2014 from 68% in 2010, assuring safe childbirth in the region. Their maternal mortality ratio stands at 49.64 (for every 100,000 live births) and 8 infant mortality rate (for every 1,000 live births) in 2014 – a significant decrease from previous years of 62-71 and 9-11 respectively.

The JICA project also revived collaboration among local government units through the Inter-Local Health Zone (ILHZ) and strengthened networking among health facilities. "We identify problems together, help each other, and address our health priorities," said Dr. Marcela Tinoyan, Tublay's municipal health officer.

CAR has 14 functioning ILHZ, an inter-local government unit cooperation that assures resource sharing and cooperation for better health services.

With zero maternal mortality for every 100,000 live births from 2011 to 2013, Tublay municipality shows that an effective community health system can help save the lives of mothers and children. ●

A quick glance at JICA's Support to Maternal and Child Health in the Cordillera

1967 Poliomyelitis Control project was launched in Philippines

1974 JICA's cooperation on family planning project began in the Philippines as worldwide call mounted for countries to lower birth rates for socio-economic development

1993 Maternal and Child Health Family Planning project was launched in Region 3 as Japan became participant to the Global Issues and Initiatives (GII) on population and AIDS

1996 JICA and UN Food Program provided medical equipment in Cordillera

2006 JICA provided technical assistance on Local Health System Strengthening Project in Benguet until 2011

JICA launched Maternal and Child Health project in Ifugao that ran until **2010**

2012 The project 'Cordillera-Wide Strengthening of the Local Health System for Effective and Efficient Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services' was launched integrating earlier MCH projects in a region wide scale

2014 JICA-DOH Project on Strengthening of the Local Health System for Effective and Efficient Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services received Good Practice Award from the National Economic and Devlopment Authority

July 2014 IP culture-friendly maternal care and promotion material was published

August 2014 Over 200,000 poor and IP from the Cordillera was covered by National Health Insurance Program (PhilHealth)

June 2015 The project was complemented with study tour of best practices participated by Leyte and Ormoc health officials

Sources:
JICA 60 Years of ODA Coffee Table Book, 2014
Project Profile Materials
JICA Research Institute website

50 years of making a difference in the lives of Filipinos

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program marked its 50 years in 2015. On this occasion, we commemorate the extraordinary contribution of the volunteers in developing the capacities of many Filipino communities towards becoming resilient and sustainable. The Japanese volunteers spend two years in the Philippines, or more, living each day with the community, sharing their professional expertise, and helping address poverty challenges.

For more than five decades, they have touched the lives of the communities they serve by sharing innovations, new ideas, and Japanese values that their counterparts continue to treasure to this day.

A glimpse of the JOCV Program through the years

1965 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program was launched as a part of Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA) program

1966 Exchange of Notes on the JOCV dispatch agreement with the Philippines was signed. Japan dispatched its first batch of volunteers in the Philippines

1970s First batch of Japanese volunteers were dispatched to the National Artificial Breeding Center to support the Philippine livestock industry

1974 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was founded by reforming OTCA

1980 50th Batch of JOCVs arrived in the Philippines

1987 Fifty-five Japanese volunteers and Filipino technical experts founded the Philippine Animal Science Association (PASA) to promote research and development of the country's livestock industry

1996 100th Batch of JOCVs arrived in the Philippines. JOCVs in the Philippines spearheaded a mango project in La Union Province, now called La Union Botanical Garden

2005 Philippines commemorated the 40th JOCV Anniversary

2013 JOCVs dispatched to the Philippines reached 1,500

2014 JICA through the JOCV program and government partners launched the Philippines' first fabrication laboratory in Bohol for the SMEs in the creative industry

50th Anniversary of JICA's JOCV Program

2015

2016 JICA Philippines' commemoration of the first JOCV deployment in the Philippines

JOCV Counterparts remember stories and legacies of Japanese volunteers

The JOCVs in the Philippines assisted in many areas of development around the country, while at the same time reinvigorating the ties between Japanese and Filipino people. Below are some of the recollections of organizations where JOCVs became part of over the years.

Japanese volunteer Nakagaki initiated crop cultivation in La Union, now a popular botanical garden

Community Development

In Sitio Hapon, Barangay Cadaclan, hundreds of mango trees were abloom in what is now called the La Union Botanical Garden. In the early '70s, Japanese volunteer Osamu Nakagaki (Batch 13) initiated the planting of mango trees and other crops in the area. He, along with other Japanese volunteers after him, created a demonstration farm that taught locals how to cultivate crops for livelihood.

"Looking at La Union's experience with Japanese volunteers, it is not too far-fetched to say that the JOCVs in the Philippines in the 1970s and after helped in the transfer of skills and technology and in fostering closer and warmer Filipino-Japanese relations," said Joseph A. Dumuk who was formerly assigned at La Union's Provincial Engineer's Office and now city consultant for sports and historical events.

"Many JOCVs became friends with the local residents and cultivated warm Filipino-Japanese relations. They shared glasses with Filipinos during 'kampai' sessions and some even became godparents or sponsors in the baptism of Filipino children."

Design and Education

Meanwhile, in Bohol Province, micro and small enterprises have been grappling on how to transform their design ideas into actual forms. In 2013, then Japanese volunteer Yutaka Tokushima (Batch 152) saw the big challenge of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on product design and packaging. He introduced the concept of an innovation laboratory (FabLab), a co-creation platform that was used by grassroots communities in many parts of the world in innovating designs.

"The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has been receiving Japanese volunteers since 2005. They helped our micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in product development, including raw material preparation and dyeing, design, and innovation," said DTI-Bohol provincial director Ma. Elena C. Arbon.

Today, FabLab is a shared services facility engaging communities in skills development, and in creating products and services that improve their capabilities.

Capacity Building

At the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), Joselito de Vera, the agency's executive director recalled how Japanese volunteers Hiroshi Iwata (Batch 121) and Sadahito Goto (Batch 133) shared Japanese system, ethics, and values.

Iwata developed a Volunteer Management System that helped PNVSCA manage voluminous information on local and international volunteers in the Philippines. He created its first local area network (LAN) and trained the staff on computer hardware.

Goto, meanwhile, helped the staff develop critical thinking and independence. "Goto would come to the office earlier than most staff. He also inculcated among the staff the value of reading and thinking rather than being dependent on others. He left behind a value, an example of his conviction, a part of Japanese philosophy – read and think – which had been a challenge for our employees." ●

Fast Facts

More than **1,500** number of Japanese volunteers assigned to the Philippines since **1966**

319 Organizations assisted by Japanese volunteers in the Philippines (2015)

A Japanese IT system helps farmers and marketers on getting accurate transaction data

A Japanese firm's IT system helps Filipino farmers in tracking produce and sales

Everyday by the crack of dawn, about a hundred farmers in Sariaya, Quezon troop to the Department of Agriculture (DA) trading center to peddle their produce for distribution to several local markets.

The staff at the trading center uses a handy terminal to register the amount of vegetables that arrive, market prices, and payments made to farmers. The local farmer gets a transaction stub on the cost and payments, even records of spoilage.

The system was a striking departure from years ago when farmers' transaction data were scribbled on paper. It would take as long as six months before data can be accessed and analyzed to develop information on the entire value chain.

The new IT system, developed by Japanese company E-supportlink, Ltd. is being piloted in the producers' group in Quezon as part of JICA's Pilot Survey for Disseminating Japanese SME Technologies for Introduction of IT Agricultural Products Distribution System. The project is under one of the schemes of Official Development Assistance from Japan implemented by JICA, where Japanese enterprises may work with relevant government agencies to introduce technologies addressing needs of developing countries. Proposals from the Japanese private sector are subject to JICA's approval.

"Through the system, we get more accurate and real-time data on crops and sales of our farmers," said Carlo Cena, administrator of Sentrong Pamilihan ng Produktong Agrikultura in Sariaya, Quezon.

The system was based on Japan's agriculture management and stocking-selling management software helping Japanese farmers and consumers track agricultural products.

Since the system is automated, Cena added, local farmers are able to control the prices of their vegetables instead of yielding to middlemen's prices. They are currently studying the system maintenance, to be able to implement the system in the coming years.

Aside from supporting Quezon's farmers of lowland vegetables, the system was also piloted in Nueva Ecija to benefit rice farmers.

As technology rapidly advances in the world, an innovative IT distribution system from Japan proves helpful to ordinary Filipino farmers in making the most of their harvest and in enhancing agriculture productivity and trading. ●

Creating harmony between nature and people at the Ifugao heritage site

Filipino trainees during exchange training exposure in Kanazawa, in Japan

Japanese experts and farmers in Ifugao work together to preserve the rice terraces

Right in this 2,000-year old terraces carved in the mountains of Ifugao, a group of experts from Japan's Kanazawa University, University of the Philippines, Ifugao State University, and the Ifugao Provincial Office are working together to conserve ecological and culture-based agriculture practices.

Lack of young farmers to sustain agriculture practices in the world famous Ifugao rice terraces as well as unabated tourism have taken a severe toll on this UNESCO heritage site and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

"Training the young generation and other stakeholders is important and a means to empower the communities to improve their lives, while conserving the environment," said Kanazawa University Professor Koji Nakamura, .

Nakamura had been part of a capacity building program in Kanazawa University called Satoyama Meister Training Program. The Satoyama program trains stakeholders to conserve the agriculture landscape and practices of Japan's GIAHS in Noto's Satoyama-Satoumi.

Now a model for Ifugao, the program trains community members through mentored research on conservation and other livelihood opportunities.

To date, 39 farmers and community members were trained under the program. About 17 research projects of the community are also helping create harmony between rice terraces conservation and livelihood creation.

Graduates of the training program like Ricky Agnapan, for example, had researched on using organic farm inputs for environment-friendly farming practices. The others, among other research, came up with value-adding activities to agriculture products like producing nutrient-rich baby food from organic heirloom rice, rice wine and indigenous tea, and beverages and recipes from organic produce.

Since 2013, JICA has been supporting the Satoyama capacity building program to promote sustainable development in the Philippines. The initiative has since strengthened the cooperation between the Ifugao Rice Terraces and Satoyama – both GIAHS sites sharing a common conservation agenda. In the long-term, the training hopes to conserve the Ifugao's agricultural treasures while supporting economic vitality of communities.

"Many are already embracing the GIAHS concept in Ifugao and Noto. Through the trainings, we hope that more people will understand the connection on economic, social and environmental aspects to sustainable development," Nakamura said. ●

4 Number of municipalities in Ifugao benefiting from the project (Banaue, Hungduan, Kiangan, and Mayoyao)

18 Number of barangays supported by the project

May 2013 Year the Noto Communique on GIAHS was declared promoting the twinning of GIAHS sites between developed and developing countries

Students in SPRNCHS learn various technical vocational courses such as automotive, dressmaking, and AutoCAD

At a high school in Laguna, students take the right track on tech-voc education

The school sits atop in what seems like a hill in San Pedro, Laguna. Classrooms give a view of newly painted school buildings and a row of neighborhood composed of relocated families from Metro Manila and other places.

Despite the suburban mix of old and new, inside the San Pedro Relocation Center National High School (SPRCNHS) lies what seems to be the future of technical vocation education in the Philippines: nearly 8,700 junior and senior high school students and 390 teachers weave a minimum of 300 hours of work immersion in its curriculum tailored to the needs of the industries.

"As early as 2000, our school has been a participant in helping the country revive technical vocational education under Project APEX (Applied Academics for Excellence) in Laguna and then STVEP or Strengthened Technical Vocational Educational Program," said Dr. Victorio Medrano, SPRCNHS's principal. Medrano, a staunch advocate of technical vocational program, studied apprenticeship practices of countries like Japan, Australia and Germany.

Recently, the Philippines has expanded the educational cycle to 12 years under the K+12 Program to be implemented by 2016, and which includes technical vocational track in high schools.

In economies like the Philippines, evidence indicates that there is a mismatch between industry needs and the quality of graduates that schools produce. Into this breach, an additional two years in high school will allow students to master concepts and hone skills to prepare them for college or work life. Thus, the government identified schools like SPRCNHS to model Grades 11 and 12 in 2012 to explore innovations and best practices that can bridge the gap between graduates and industry.

To support the senior high school modeling program, JICA partnered with Department of Education and technical vocational schools, namely Don Alejandro Roces Sr. Science and Technology High School, Rizal Experimental Station and Pilot School of Cottage Industries, Subangdaku Technical Vocational High School, and SPRCNHS.

JICA provided SPRCNHS with P2.3 million worth of equipment for specializations like welding, automotive, garments technology, and AutoCAD/drafting technology. Principals, teachers and industry linkage coordinators of the schools were also given immersion trips in Japan's technical schools to learn from the Japanese experience.

Schools like SPRCNHS partner with 75 industry partners for the students' on-the-job trainings on skills and expertise needed in the workplace.

With JICA's assistance, pilot schools like SPRCNHS were also provided a Job Support Corner, a facility that includes a touch-screen computer which allows access to job portals like PHIL-Jobnet of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

"Our challenge is to convince parents and students that there are real opportunities in technical vocational education," Medrano said. They hold yearly trade fairs showcasing students' skills and involve parents in motivating students.

By 2015, SPRCNHS's first wave of graduates were employed by the industry (60%) while some 30% have enrolled in college. A student also earns as much as 450 pesos a day, beyond the minimum wage in provinces after graduation and are employed in major companies like Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., Rohm Electronics Philippines, Inc. and CLP Metal Industries and Precision Toolings Company.

At the garments technology lab where students cut patterns, 17-year old Iyra Manghente said being in the school allows her to pursue her passion. Like most students in SPRCNHS, her family was relocated in San Pedro in the '70s and poverty is a constant challenge.

"This is my dream, and I hope I can help my parents in the future once I become a fashion designer. In our class, I learn about analyzing design, and seeing my imagination come to life," Iyra said.

With their youth and enthusiasm, technical vocational students in this public school show that with imagination and skills, the sky is the limit. ●

ICAN and JICA support integration of street children to society through livelihood and literacy education

A home for Metro Manila's street children

Their day begins peddling soft drinks and cigarettes in front of a Quezon City shopping mall. When business is brisk, they earn as much as P250 a day. However, life on the streets also means being exposed to unpleasant encounters.

Such is the life of Elvie Dolorito, 19, and scores of others who've made the streets their home because of poverty.

There are about 25 million street children in the Philippines, one-fourth of which can be found in Metro Manila (JICA-ICAN Project Brief). These children are also vulnerable to risks and violence.

In 2011, Japanese non-profit group International Children's Action Network (ICAN) and JICA teamed up for a project to protect the rights of street children in Metro Manila.

As part of the project, ICAN organized the street children into a cooperative called Kalye (a name created by the children themselves). From living on the streets, some 70 to 80 Kalye members are now social entrepreneurs.

"Getting the children's trust is a challenge. But, through Kalye, we're able to teach them independence and skills to operate an enterprise by themselves," said Nami Iwashita, ICAN regional director in the Philippines and project manager.

On September 2015, Kalye opened a café managed by former street children themselves. The Kalye Café, a quaint coffee shop along Mahinhin Street, UP Village in Quezon City, offers bread and pastry baked by Kalye members.

Dolorito, who works in the cafe, said "I'm happy working in the café with my friends from the streets. The allowance from my job helps support my schooling and also my family's needs."

Now a second year student in a computer college, Dolorito turns wistful as she sits beside the coffee shop's table. "This is like our home now. We no longer have to be on the streets. Once I finish school, I really wanted to be a teacher also."

Aside from Kalye Café, right in the narrow streets of Blumentritt Road, Manila, ICAN and JICA built a Drop-In Center for street children, 4 to 14 years old.

ICAN created a peer influencer system where a street kid becomes a leader and joins the social workers at the Drop-In Center for sessions with the kids.

"The center gives us the venue to teach literacy to children. We'd just met them in a fast food restaurant before," Carla Mae Bremen, an ICAN social worker, said. "We continue to coordinate with the local government and social welfare department so eventually we can provide better services by working together towards a common goal."

With efforts of ICAN and JICA, several street children are regaining their confidence and their right to live and dream. ●

Peace and Development in Mindanao


Women at the demonstration farm in Maguindanao

A chance for peace and overcoming poverty

Melanie Fernandez is a farmer in Sultan Mastura, Maguindanao. At the demonstration farm supported by JICA, Fernandez shares new vegetable growing techniques with other farmers.

Today, she sells produce like lettuce, bell peppers, and other vegetables in a nearby market and is more confident of her future.

Decades of conflict have disrupted economic development in Sultan Mastura and other communities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Poverty remained above the national average at 55.3%, 2006 government data showed.

"We are sharing the skills we learned with other farmers so we can sell beyond our communities," Fernandez said.

Together with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP) and the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), JICA has been aiding three conflict-affected areas in ARMM in sustainable community development activities. The project called Capacity Building for Community Development in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CD-CAAM) works with communities in Matungao, Lanao del Norte; Sultan Mastura, Maguindanao; and Panglima, Sugala in Tawi-Tawi.

CD-CAAM takes off from the results of previous JICA assistance Study on Socio-Economic Reconstruction and Development of Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (SERD-CAAM, 2007-2009) that seeks to help 140 barangays in the area.

In Lanao del Norte, a pilot fishery farm produces up to 410 kilos during first harvest season from 3-4 kilos before the project. "We were able to easily use the techniques we learned because we use local resources and design for fish farming," said Ramil Saro, a farmer in the area.

JICA and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) trained farmers like Saro on proper feeding techniques and exposed them to successful fish farms.

Aside from raising income opportunities, CD-CAAM also rehabilitated roads in barangays Tariken and Namuken in Sultan Mastura and Cadayonan and Banco in Matungao. Farmers can now easily transport their goods and access outside markets.

Residents in the area used the 'bayanihan' concept ('communal unity') to complete the project. While Japanese technology called 'donou' (sandbagging) was applied to prevent soil erosion and flooding.

As people in Sultan Mastura hopes for lasting peace in their area, JICA's assistance combined with the community's sheer resilience and hard work are steadily improving the lives of many people. ●


Farmers receive training from JICA to improve fish farming in Lanao del Norte

Farmers in Mindanao make progress in farm productivity

When a dam was constructed in this town of Malitubog-Maridagao (Mal-Mar) in North Cotabato, farmers like Arnel Matalam have no idea how to make their farm lots more productive despite the available water resources.

They were used to harvesting 10 to 20 sacks of rice for every one hectare of farmland per cropping season, and do not know they can still scale up their production.

Mal-Mar irrigation Dam

In 2014, JICA partnered with the Department of Agriculture (DA) - Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) under a yen loan attached technical assistance project to address the needs of farmers like Matalam and help transform conflict areas into a productive agricultural area.

The project, known as Project for Agricultural Extension Support in Malitubog - Maridagao Irrigation Project (I), has been providing local farmers trainings and farming technology under a win-win roll over scheme. The farmers pay the 50% of the planting costs and the other half is paid by the project.

"Through collaboration with JICA, the ATI proved that it can implement a successful project in a conflict-affected area, not just by introducing effective farming technologies, but also integrating Islamic values during the process," said DA-ATI Region 12 Regional Director Abdul Daya-an.

With help from ATI personnel, farmers learned about the Palay Check system where they were given specific instructions for every step in farming to ensure productivity. They were also trained on management, bookkeeping, and entrepreneurship.

From few rice sacks, farmers in Mal-Mar are now harvesting as much as 109 sacks per hectare.

"We are thankful that JICA and ATI assisted us despite the security situations in our area," said Kasim Dagendel, president of the Federation of Irrigators Association in Mal-Mar.

Another local farmer Usman Nosel of the BASBIA Irrigators Association in the area said, "We've seen the benefit of the project not only in the improvement of the quantity of our harvest but also in the quality of rice we produce. The skills and knowledge imparted to us by the project will forever be helpful to us."

Amid the peace and security challenges, the farmers in Mal-Mar are reaping the value of their hard work and are helping the rest of their communities realize the fruits of peace and development in their lives. ●

A gift of hope for the young generation in Mindanao's conflict areas


Former JICA President Akihiko Tanaka with students in Kibleg Elementary School

Lack of classrooms at Kibleg Elementary School in North Upi, Maguindanao has driven teachers and students to hold classes in make shift classrooms in the past.

Access to basic services like education facilities has been a sobering challenge for North Upi with decades of conflict marring their development.

"The school is now more conducive for learning with help from additional classrooms from JICA. Parents of our school children are working hard to send their children to school since they know their kids have a better learning facility now," said Nestor de Vera, principal of Kibleg Elementary School.

The signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) in March 2014 between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) brought hope to many people in conflict affected areas in Southern Philippines.

A day after the CAB signing, then JICA President Akihiko Tanaka and MILF Chair Al Haj Murad discussed future cooperation under a Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (CCDP-B) to help communities realize the dividends of peace in their lives.

Under the CCDP-B, JICA and the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), a government body tasked to come up with a draft Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) to serve as basis of new Bangsamoro political entity, identified 20 quick impact projects (QIPs) to benefit conflict-affected communities.

Not too far from Kibleg, a multi-purpose hall has also risen under the JICA initiative in Simsiman, Pigkawayan in North Cotabato.

Akhmad Alimudin, president of Simsiman Bangsamoro Organization that manages the multi-purpose hall said, "Prior to JICA's assistance, we do not have a venue for community consultations and other activities like trainings and meetings. Now that we have our own venue, it became easy for us to hold dialogues and seminars with the government on how we can improve our livelihood."

Nearly 40 years of conflict have deprived many communities in Southern Philippines with access to basic services. As the Philippines pursues efforts to establish a Bangsamoro government, the QIPs established in conflict areas, where many are living in poverty, ushers a glimmer of hope to the future generation. ●


A better learning facility at Kibleg Elementary school

Promoting good governance in Mindanao

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) regional government successfully met the Results-Based Performance Management System (RBPMS) of the Philippine government in 2014, supported by JICA's Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Autonomous Regional Government.

The RBPMS, a government performance monitoring and evaluation system, follows good governance conditions namely transparency of budget and other financial reports and procurements, cash liquidation, and updating of Citizen's Charter to address red tape and governance challenges among others.

JICA in partnership with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) trained ARMM officials on management including Japan's Kaizen quality management system, performance management, and improved delivery of frontline services.

The trainings provided by JICA contributed enormously in the regional government's first ever attempt to implement RBPMS," according to Maricris Valte, program manager of the ARMM-Bangsamoro Program at DAP.

About 26 ARMM agencies aligned their performance targets with the government's priorities. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Government Procurement Policy Board, Commission on Audit (COA), Civil Service Commission (CSC), and Ombudsman have also validated ARMM's technical capacity and compliance.

The trainings enabled ARMM government to qualify for performance-based incentives for all of 23,000 ARMM regular employees and teachers in 2014– proving that restoring trust in public service and ownership of rebuilding institutions are essential in peace and development process. ●

A Glimpse of JICA's Support to Lasting Peace and Development in Mindanao

2002
- JICA began its assistance to peace building and development in Mindanao through the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Social Fund for Peace and Development benefiting more than 350 barangays in Mindanao
- Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited the Philippines and promised aid to Mindanao peace and development

2004
- International Monitoring Team (IMT) was established in Mindanao

2006
- Japan Prime Minister Taro Aso visited the Philippines and pledged aid for Mindanao
- Japan began dispatch of socio-economic development experts to IMT in Mindanao
- JICA launched the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development (J-BIRD) for Mindanao meant to support community development, income improvement, and human resource training among others
- JICA President Sadako Ogata visited Mindanao and committed a higher JICA budget for Mindanao

2009
- Conflict in Mindanao has stalled the peace process in the past years, but the government and the MILF resumed peace negotiations this year
- International Contact Group (ICG) was established

August 2011
- President Benigno Aquino III held talks with MILF Chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim for the first time in Narita, Japan

October 2012
- Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) was signed calling for the creation of the Bangsamoro government.

2013
- JICA launched the Capacity Building Project for Community Development in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao meant to enhance the community development capacity of the Bangsamoro Development Authority (BDA); also launched the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (CCDP-B)

March 2014
- JICA joined the rest of the international community in witnessing the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) in Malacanang

April 2014
- JICA and the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) signed the Memorandum of Understanding on implementing transparent, participatory, and inclusive Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) for Bangsamoro

4 June 2015
- Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Philippine President Aquino jointly declared the Strengthened Strategic Partnership between Japan and the Philippines, including cooperation for enduring peace in Mindanao

2016
- JICA continues to work hand in hand with the people of Bangsamoro to achieve peace and development in the Bangsamoro communities

Source: Japan International Cooperation Agency, COP6 Handout, 2014

JICA Corporate Profile

About JICA

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an agency of the government of Japan responsible for implementing Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).

JICA's vision of "Inclusive and Dynamic Development" is cognizant of the value of promoting self-help efforts among developing countries towards socio-economic development. JICA is committed to share its experience-based knowledge with developing countries to strengthen their own problem-solving capability.

JICA is one of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies working with over 150 countries and regions. It has 15 branch offices across Japan and about a 100 overseas offices including the Philippines.

In the Philippines, JICA reflects the same commitment of fostering self-reliance in its development approach. JICA, a key development partner of the Philippines since the 1960s, acts as a bridge between Japan and the Philippines in sharing Japan's technology and knowledge with the Filipinos and derive sustainable development for all. ●

Assistance Schemes

JICA supports developing countries through a wide array of assistance schemes:

1. Technical Cooperation

This assistance taps the knowledge, technology, and experience of Japan and developing countries in providing multi-tiered assistance for human resource development, policy formulation, and institution building.

Dispatch of Experts

JICA dispatches experts to transfer technology, and to provide recommendations to key economic and social development administrators of recipient countries.

Acceptance of Trainees

JICA organizes training programs in collaboration with Japan's national and local governments, universities, private sector, non-government groups, and other relevant stakeholders. The aim is to transfer Japanese specialized knowledge and technology, and contribute to resolving issues in recipient countries.

2. ODA Loan

The assistance offers development funds under concessional terms to support growth of developing countries.

3. Grant Aid

This assistance covers the financial assistance extended to a developing country with no obligation for repayment.

4. Citizen Participation

Volunteer Program

Since 1965, JICA has been sending qualified professionals from various technical disciplines to developing countries under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) Program. The volunteers work with people in host communities, build the capacity of their host organizations, and deepen cultural understanding and friendship between Japan and the Philippines.

Partnership Program

JICA partners with Japanese local governments, non-government organizations, and universities to contribute to the socio-economic development of developing countries at the grassroots level. The program covers areas such as health, livelihood, education, and other projects with direct impact on the lives of local people.

5. Public Private Partnerships

JICA's efforts to promote public-private partnerships are focused primarily on cooperation in developing countries aimed at improving its business environment, infrastructure, and public services, through PPP (Public-Private Partnership), wherein the government and private sector share responsibilities.

6. Disaster Relief

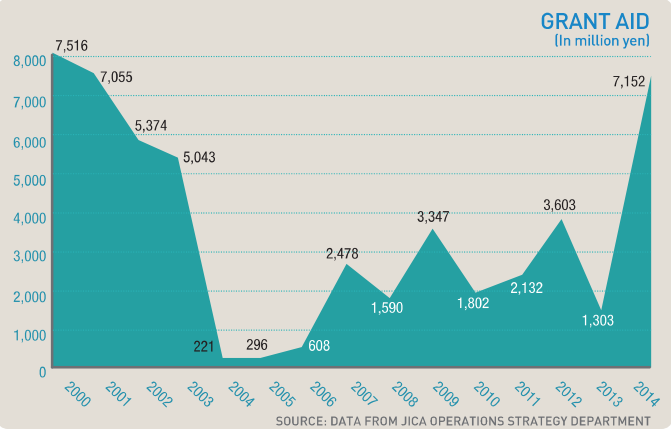
In case of large-scale disasters, JICA dispatches Japan Disaster Relief teams in response to request from governments of affected countries or international organizations. The teams support search and rescue efforts, medical aid, and recovery. Also, JICA provides emergency supplies to disaster-hit areas.

Fact Sheet

JAPAN'S BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES (FROM 2000-2014)

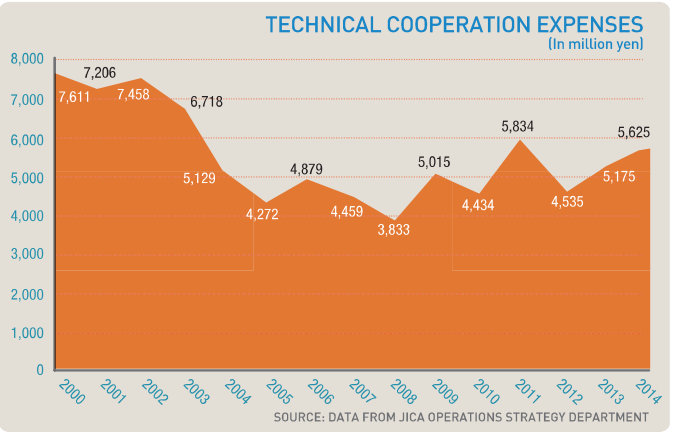
GRANT AID

Grant Aid is the provision of funds to developing countries which have low income levels, without the obligation of repayment. It is used for improving basic infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, water supply facilities, and road, along with obtaining health and medical care equipment and other requirements.



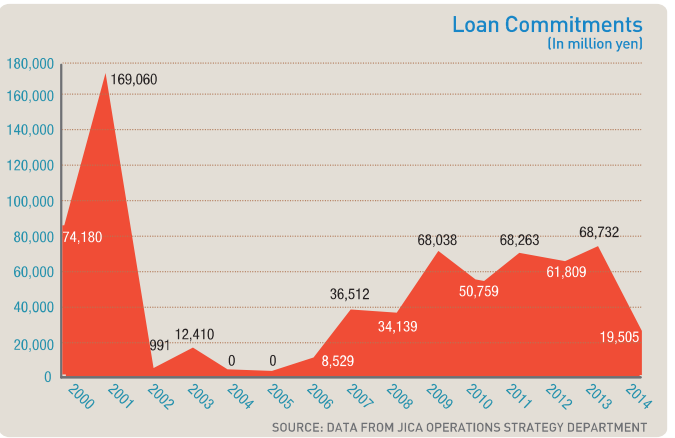
TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Technical Cooperation harnesses the comprehensive capacities of the developing countries to address their development challenges by their own. It is a people-to-people cooperation that taps both the knowledge, technology and experience of Japan and the developing countries in providing a 'multi-tiered assistance' for human resource development, policy formulation and institutional building (JICA Annual Report 2012, p.114).



LOAN ASSISTANCE

ODA loan assistance offers relatively large amounts of development funds under concessional terms to support development and growth efforts of developing countries. Since this type of assistance has an obligation of repayment, efficient use of funds and supervision of project implementation are necessary resulting in project ownership for the developing countries in the process (JICA Annual Report 2012, p. 116).



DISPATCHED PERSONNEL
(CUMULATIVE TOTAL) FROM 1964-2012

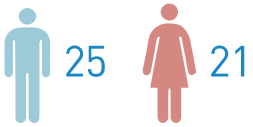
TRAINING PARTICIPANTS 34,873

EXPERTS 7,111

JOCVs 1,586

JOCV DATA

TOTAL MEMBER OF JOCV: 46
AS OF DECEMBER 2015



DISTRIBUTION BY REGION

CAR	1
Region 5	10
Region 6	20
Region 7	12
Region 8	3

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

- Agriculture, forestry, fisheries
- Manufacturing
- Planning/Government
- Health/ Healthcare
- Business/Tourism
- Social Welfare Services
- Human Resources

Priority Areas

1 Achieving sustainable economic growth through further promotion of investment

To improve the Philippines' investment climate, and achieve sustainable economic growth, JICA provides assistance focusing on:

(1) improvement of traffic and transport network of the Greater Capital Region;

(2) improvement of energy and water infrastructure;

(3) enhancement of administrative capacity;

(4) securing maritime safety; and

(5) human resource development for industries.

2 Overcoming vulnerability and stabilizing bases for human life and production activity

To overcome vulnerability to risks affecting the impoverished sector, and stabilize the foundation for human life and production activities, JICA provides assistance to the Philippines on:

(1) improvement of "hard" and "soft" infrastructure related to natural disasters and environment;

(2) development of safety nets including health care; and

(3) enhancement of agriculture productivity and processing and distribution of agricultural products.

3 Peace and development in Mindanao

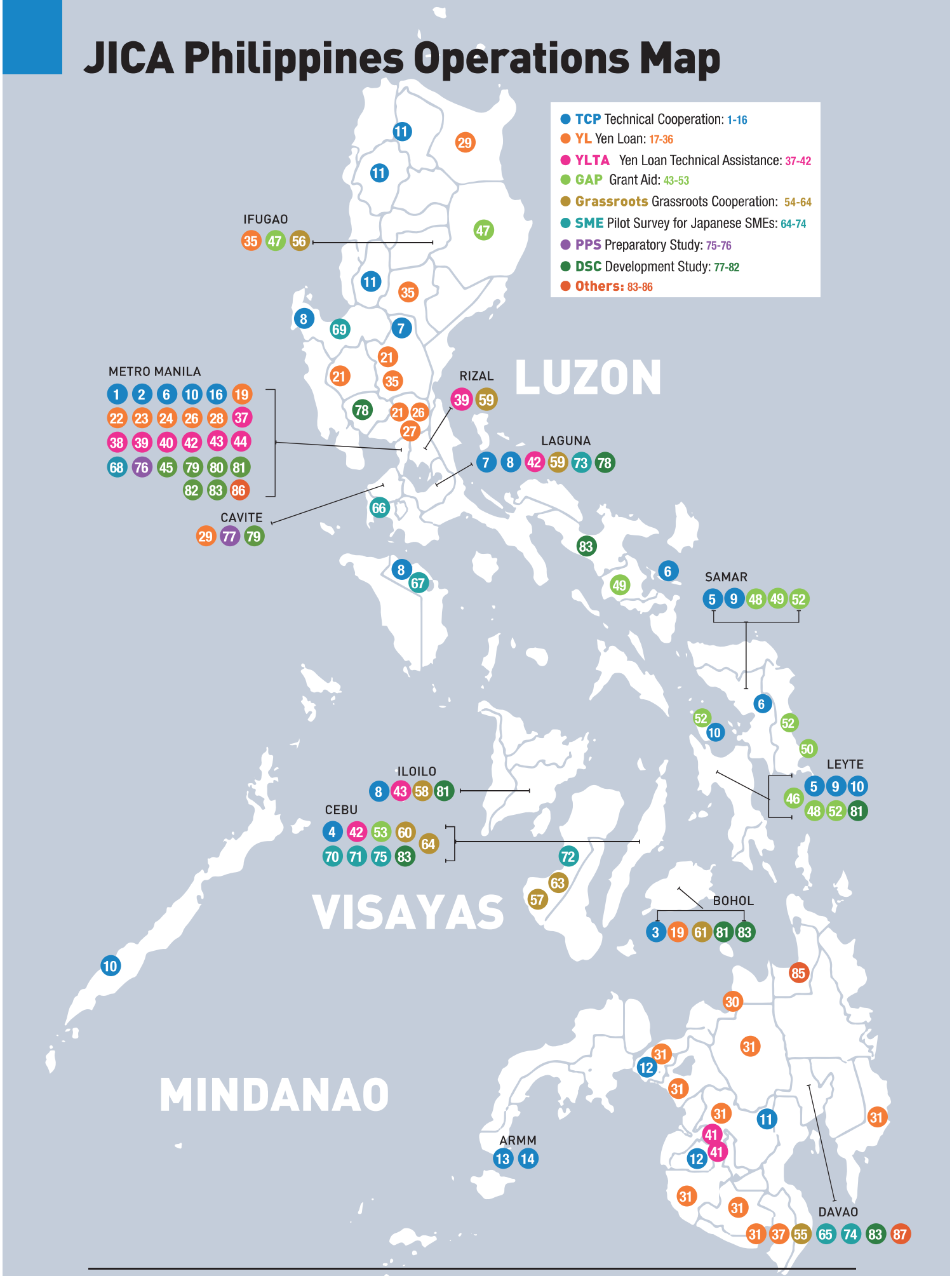
To help stabilize peace in Mindanao through the peace process and socio-economic development in conflict-affected areas, and poverty alleviation, JICA assists the Philippines in:

(1) strengthening governance;

(2) reducing poverty through improvement of access to social services; and

(3) community development through improvement of infrastructure and industry promotion.

JICA Philippines Operations Map



JICA Philippines Project List

(as of December 2015)

TCP Technical Cooperation

1. Roadmap for Integrated Transport Infrastructure for Mega-Manila *Metro Manila*
2. MMUTIS Update and Capacity Enhancement Project (MUCEP) *Metro Manila*
3. Sustainable Environment Protection Project for Panglao *Panglao Island and surrounding areas including Balicasag Island, Bohol*
4. Mega Cebu Vision 2050 (Study on Roadmap for Sustainable Urban Development in Metro Cebu)*Metro Cebu*
5. Urgent Development Study for the Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda *Leyte/Samar*
6. Weather Observation, Forecasting and Warning Capacity Enhancement *Metro Manila, Bicol, Eastern Visayas*
7. Technical Cooperation Project on Extension capacity development for rice food security in Africa *Los Banos, Nueva Ecija*
8. Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptive Management (CECAM) *Banate Bay, Iloilo, Laguna Lake, Bolinao, Pangasinan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro*
9. Strengthening of Maternal and Child Health Services in Eastern Visayas (SMACHS-EV) *Eastern Visayas (Leyte & Ormoc City)*
10. Comprehensive Etiological and Epidemiological Study on Acute Respiratory Infections in Children – Providing Evidence for the Prevention and Control of Childhood Pneumonia in the Philippines *Metro Manila, Tacloban City, Leyte, Biliran, Palawan*
11. Cordillera-wide Strengthening of Local Health System for Efficient and Effective Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services *Abra, Apayao, Benguet*
12. Project for Capacity Building for Community Development in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAAM) *Sultan Mastura, Maguindanao and Matungao, Lanao del Norte*
13. Rice-Based Farming Technology Extension Project for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) *ARMM*
14. Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro *Bangsamoro territory*
15. Project on Capacity Building for a Comprehensive National Competition Policy (Phase 2) *Nationwide*
16. Enhancement of Practical Capability for Maritime Law Enforcement Project *Manila*

YL Yen Loan

17. Road Upgrading and Preservation Project *Nationwide*
18. New Communications, Navigation and Surveillance Air Traffic Management Systems Development Project (CNS/ATM) *Nationwide*
19. New Bohol Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project *Panglao Island, Bohol/ Manila*
20. Logistic Infrastructure Development Project (LIDP) *Nationwide*
21. Central Luzon Link Expressway Construction Project *Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan*
22. Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project, Phase VI (D/D) *Metro Manila*
23. Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project (Lambingan and Guadalupe Bridges *Metro Manila*
24. Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project *Metro Manila*
25. Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project for PCG, Nationwide *Nationwide*
26. North-South Commuter Railway Project (Malolos-Tutuban) *Metro Manila, Bulacan*
27. Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase II) *Bulacan*
28. Pasig Marikina River Channel Improvement Project *Metro Manila*
29. Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan River and Imus River *Tuguegarao, Tagoloan, Cavite,*
30. Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River *CDO*
31. Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agricultural Development Project *Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon, Compostella Valley, Davao del Sur, North and South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat*
32. Agrarian Reform Support Infrastructure Project (Phase III) *Nationwide*
33. Agricultural Credit Support Project *Nationwide*
34. National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project *Nationwide*
35. Forestland Management Project *Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Iloilo*
36. Environmental Development Program *Nationwide*
37. Davao City Bypass Construction Project (South and Center Sections), *Davao City*

YLTA Yen Loan Technical Assistance

38. Road Planning and Management Advisor *Manila*
39. Project for Improvement/Restoration of Telemetry Equipment of Effective Flood Control Operation System (EFCOS) *Metro Manila & Rizal*
40. Capacity Building for Effective Utilisation of Satellite Information for ASEAN Disaster Management *Manila*
41. Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project I YLTA *Maguindanao and North Cotabato*
42. Project for Supporting Senior High School Modeling in Selected Technical Vocational High Schools *Metro Manila, Laguna, Cebu*
43. Capacity Development of Public- Private- Partnership Project Formulation *Manila, Iloilo*
44. Energy Regulatory Framework Improvement Project *Manila*

GAP Grant Aid

45. The Project for Enhancement of Communications System of Philippines Coast Guard *Manila*
46. Program Grant Aid on the Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda *Leyte*
47. Mini-Hydropower Development Project *Ifugao, Isabela*
48. The Project for Reconstruction of Municipal Halls in Lawaan and Marabut Municipalities *Leyte/Samar*
49. Project for Evacuation Shelter Construction in Disaster Vulnerable Areas in Province of Albay *Albay*
50. The Project for Rehabilitation of Guiuan Radar *Guiuan*
51. Project for Improvement of Equipment for Disaster Risk Management (PHIVOLCS) *Nationwide*
52. Grant Assistance Project for Underprivileged Farmers (2KR) *Leyte, Eastern and Western Samar, Biliran*
53. Improvement of Water Supply System in Metropolitan Cebu Water District *Metropolitan Cebu*
54 Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) *Nationwide*

Grassroots Grassroots Cooperation

55. Hiroshima Peacebuilding Human Resource Development Project for the Bangsamoro Government in Mindanao *Davao City*
56. HR Development Program for Sustainable Development of the GIAHS Designated site "Ifugao Rice Terraces" *Ifugao*
57. Environmental Awareness-Raising Project for Symbiosis Among Forests, Human and Ocean *Negros Occidental*
58. Community Based Adaptation and Resilience against Disaster in Iloilo (CBARAD) *Iloilo City*
59. Enhancing Resiliency through Community Participatory Flood Observation System for the Laguna Lake Basin *Laguna, Rizal*
60. Capacity Building on Disaster Risk Reduction through Cooperation between Local Communities and Education Sector in Cebu Province *Daanbantayan, Bogo, Danao/ Cebu City*
61. The Project for Enhancement of Capacity for Participatory Disaster Management on Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery in the Municipality of Tubigon, Bohol *Tubigon, Bohol*
62. Safe Plant and Livestock Production Technology Dissemination Project in the Philippines *Nationwide*
63. Victorias City Agri-Business/Agri-Eco-Tourism Enhancement Project Based on Nanjo City Model (Okinawa, Japan) *Victorias City, Negros Occidental*
64. Saitama-Cebu Comprehensive HR Monozukuri Project *Cebu*

SME Pilot Survey for Japanese SMEs

65. Feasibility Study on Recycling Waste Cooking Oil for Production and Distribution of Bio Diesel Fuel *Davao City*
66. Power Meter Recycling and Maintenance Utilizing Japanese Used Meter *Batangas*
67. Developing Non-Electrified Community by Using Micro Hydro Power *Mindoro*
68. Feasibility Survey for Improvement of Environment and Fuel Efficiency by Converting Public Bus Engines to Diesel Dual Fuel(DDF)Engines *Manila*
69. Pilot Survey for Disseminating SMEs' Technologies for Photovoltaic System (Solar Panel) as Power Source for Milkfish Production *Dagupan and Sual, Pangasinan*
70. Pilot Survey for Disseminating SME's Technologies for Mobile Sand Filtration Tank for Drinking Water and Rehabilitation System for Sand Filters *Metropolitan Cebu*
71. Pilot Survey for Disseminating SME's Technologies for Applicability of Dewatering Equipment for Septage Management in Cebu City *Cebu City*
72. Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Portable All-in-one Water Purification System *Sagay City*
73. Project Formulation Survey on Local Biodiesel Fuel Production System for Local Consumption *Los Banos, Laguna*
74. Project Formulation Survey on Local Biodiesel Fuel Production System for Local Consumption *Davao City*
75. Pilot Survey for Disseminating SME's Technologies for Solid Waste Management and Resource Recycling in Cebu City *Cebu City*

PPS Preparatory Study

76. Supplementary Survey on North South Commuter Railway Project (PHASE II-A) *Metro Manila*
77. Preparatory Survey for Flood Risk Management Project for Cavite Lowland Area *Cavite*

DCS Development Study

78. Data Collection Survey on Septage Management for Facilitating the Environment Development Project *Calamba,Laguna & Angeles City, Pampanga*
79. Information Collection Survey for New Manila International Airport Project *Metro Manila, Cavite*
80. Information Collection Survey for Mega-Manila Subway *Metro Manila*
81. Data Collection Survey on Disaster Resilient Feeder Ports and Logistics Network *Bohol, Iloilo, Leyte, Metro Manila*
82. Drainage Improvement in Metro Manila *Metro Manila*
83. Data Collection Survey on Introduction of Incentive System for Promoting Resilient Power Grids in the Philippines *Manila, Naga, Davao, Bohol, Cebu,Tagaytay*

Others

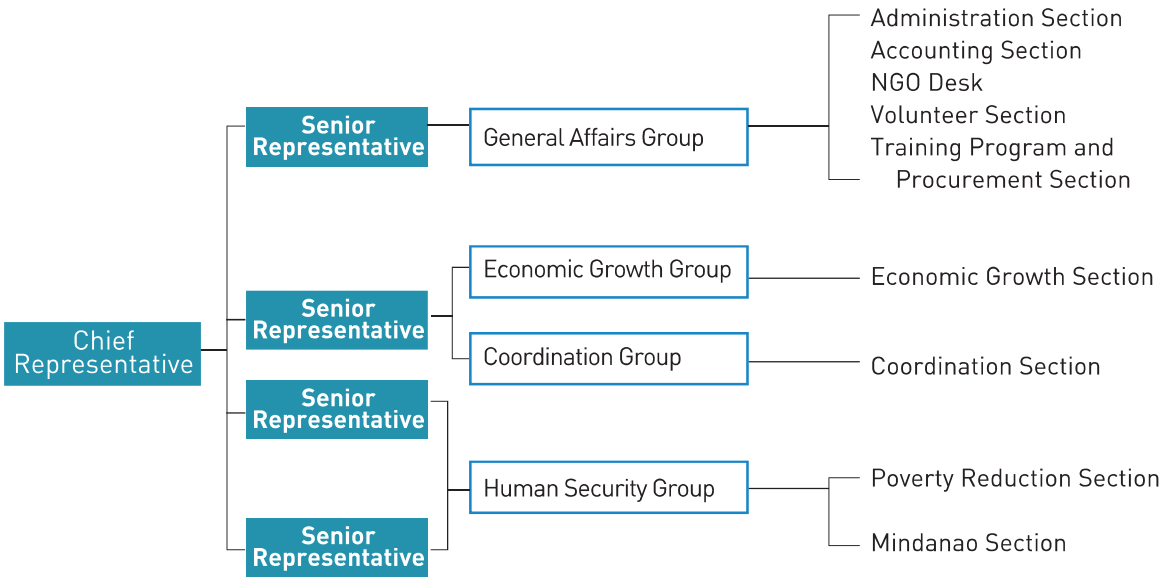
84. Research for the Development of New Rice Variety for Africa (WISH Project)
85. Preparatory Survey for Wawa River Mini-Hydro Power Stations in the Province of Agusan del Sur Project *Butuan*
86. Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology for Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine *Manila*
87. Program for Promotion of Waste to Energy Technology in Davao City *Davao*

Economic Growth Group

General Affairs Group

Human Security Group

JICA PHILIPPINE OFFICE
Organizational Chart



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